

# Latin and Greek Elements in English

## Lesson 8: Latin Suffixes

- **SUFFIX**: “one or more letters added to the end of a word to modify its meaning, and also often change its part of speech”
  - a very important and common feature of Latinate vocabulary in English
  - about twice as many suffixes as prefixes
  - also, suffixes alter the grammar of a word/**BASE**, not just modify its meaning

*and on this model construct the machine.*

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## Lesson 8: Latin Suffixes

- THREE major types of suffixes (in order of frequency):
  - adjective-forming: HUGE group, 6 lessons in Ayers
    - n.b. abbreviations: p.t. (“pertaining to”), t.t. (“tending to”)
  - noun-forming: another 6 lessons in Ayers (including diminutives)
  - verb-forming: only 3 lessons because most BASES are verbs to begin with and don’t need a special suffix to be changed into verbs

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## Lesson 8: Latin Suffixes

- see list of suffixes in Ayers, pp. 149-50
  - listed alphabetically
- see also the handout on Latin affixes on the web site (suffixes, pp. 3-5): organized by meaning

<http://www.usu.edu/markdamen/Wordpower/handouts/lataffix.pdf>

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*"Dissect the bat, study it carefully,  
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- **SUBSTANTIVE**: “an adjective which functions as a noun, without changing the form of the word,” e.g. a deductible
  - the good, the bad and the ugly
  - a heavy, a stiff, a moderate
  - the Aggies, Big Blue, the Longhorns, the Trojans
  - trojans, rubbers, prophylactics

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- substantives are very common with certain Latin suffixes
  - *-ian* (Lesson 8): barbarian, Virginian, Christian, amphibian, antiquarian
    - some are felt to be nouns almost exclusively, e.g. historian, librarian
    - cf. the related suffix *-ane*: butane, methane, propane
  - *-ary* (Lesson 9): dictionary, granary, commentary, aviary
- “substantive” = answer for part of speech
  - noun, verb, adjective, substantive

# Latin and Greek Elements in English

## Lesson 9: Word Analysis

- now that we have prefixes/BASES/suffixes, it's possible to analyze words fully

- please use the proper format:

con-	with
DUCT-	lead
-or	one who

- note that there can be more than one affix of either kind

– e.g., ir-/re-/con-/CIL-/-abil/-ity

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## Lesson 9: Word Analysis

- determining a word's actual meaning from its components often involves the difficulty of seeing an underlying metaphor
  - you'll need to practice seeing how to divine the metaphor behind a word's etymological meaning
  - the best way to accomplish that is by doing your homework regularly and thoroughly
  - some words will be very difficult to interpret
    - e.g. precarious: “full of (needing) prayer”

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## Lesson 9: Word Analysis

- TWO promises I will make you:
  - You will be able to figure out the meaning of the words I choose to put on tests and quizzes without having a Ph.D. in linguistics or being Shakespeare!
  - The harder you work, the faster figuring out metaphors will come to you—and the more words you'll learn!

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